

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3604

May 8, 2006

Mr. Dennis Smith  
Director  
Center for Medicaid and State Operations  
Health and Human Services  
7500 Security Blvd.  
Baltimore MD 21244-1850

Dear Mr. Smith,

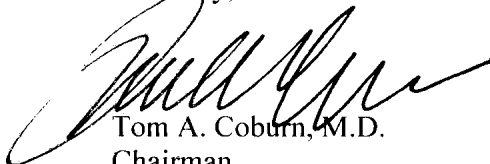
I write to inquire into the timely development of a strategic plan to counter waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid program following the passage of the Deficit Reduction Act – a plan that will take into account past vulnerabilities, clearly delineate roles and responsibilities for fraud control, and standardize those roles across the States.

I appreciated your participation in the recent Senate Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management hearing entitled “Bolstering the Safety Net: Eliminating Medicaid Fraud” (March 28, 2006). As you know, when billions of dollars of taxpayers’ hard-earned money are wasted, everyone suffers – the 60 million poor, disabled and elderly who can’t get the care they need today, and our children tomorrow who will inherit a broken health care system riddled with fraud and abuse. I was delighted to learn at the hearing that you were responsible for the development of a fraud control plan that you hoped to see completed within six weeks.

Congress has an obligation to work hand-in-hand with you to ensure that such a strategic plan has specific goals and accountable standards for reporting improper payments and prosecuting fraud. In addition, it is my hope that the Center for Medicaid and State Operations, with the aid of the Office of Inspector General, will increase and strengthen oversight over State’s fraud control efforts to balance the significant Federal investment in the Medicaid program, as well as focus efforts on high yielding multi-program data sharing models such as Medi-Medi.

Once again, thank you for your valuable service to the American public in the development of this important strategic plan. I do not doubt that a well-implemented strategy with renewed focus on commonsense practices and measurable goals for fraud control and reduction will achieve significant fiscal and integrity returns for the Medicaid program on every level, and I look forward to working with you towards achieving this goal.

Sincerely,



Tom A. Coburn, M.D.  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial  
Management, Government Information,  
and International Security

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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